Jl S. Afr. Bot. 39 (1): 41–43 (1973)

A NEW VARIETY OF *ALOE* FROM NAMAQUALAND

J. J. Lavranos

Abstract

A new variety of *Aloe krapohliana* Marloth is described and compared to the typical form of the species.

Uittreksel

'N NUWE *ALOE* VARIËTEIT VAN NAMAKWALAND.
'n Nuwe *Aloe krapohliana* Marloth variëteit word beskryf en met die tipiese vorm van die soort vergelyk.

Description and Discussion

Aloe krapohliana Marloth var. **dumoulinii** Lavranos var. nov. a typo habitu polycephalo, foliis minoribus, incurvatis, floribus ventricosis satis differens.

Type Material: South Africa; Cape Province; 2816 DA (Namaqualand). On bare, windswept, white quartzite hills S.E. of Alexander Bay, alt. appr. 150 m., Lavranos *et* Butler 8777, coll. 28 Aug. 1971 (PRE, Holotype.)

The writer's attention was first drawn to this beautiful plant by Mr. J. P. Swanepoel of Somerset West in the Cape. It had been collected by Mr. J. Dumoulin, Director of the Hester Malan Wild Flower Reserve of Springbok, Namaqualand, a few miles S.E. of Alexander Bay, growing on bare quartzite ridges in conditions of extreme aridity. It was at first thought that it might represent nothing more than a local growth form of *A. krapohliana.* This species varies very considerably in the size of all its parts except the flowers but it invariably has arcuate-erect leaves, unspotted even in the minutest seedlings and remains solitary unless damaged, when it may produce 2 rosettes by division.

In late August 1972 the author, in the company of Mr. R. A. Butler and Mr. J. Dumoulin visited the type locality of the new variety. Large numbers of plants were found and this made it possible to ascertain that the characters whereby they differed from typical *A. krapohliana* were consistent throughout the population of several hundred plants examined.

It was found that about one half of these plants have more than one and up to fifteen rosettes which are apparently produced both by division and by offsetting. Of these many-headed specimens, not a few are lodged in deep clefts among the rocks, where they cannot have been damaged and the existence of

---

Accepted for publication 11th September, 1972.

many rosettes to each plant seems, on available evidence, to be a stable character of this population.

Moreover, individual rosettes are smaller than in even the least robust forms of *A. krapohliana* and the leaves much shorter, distinctly deltoid and strongly incurved, even in the turgid state. The peduncle is not more than 15 cm long, the racemes sub-lax, with 12–18 flowers.

The pedicels are 12–15 mm long (against about 20 mm) and the perianths, 25–27 mm long (as against 30–35 mm), are distinctly ventricose, measuring 6–7 diam. over the ovary and 8–9 mm at their middle, being restricted to 4 mm at the mouth.

The constancy of these characters would appear to indicate genetic homogeneity within the population examined. It consequently seems advisable to recognise it as a discrete variety of *A. krapohliana* and the writer has much pleasure in naming it after its discoverer, Mr. J. Dumoulin and his son Johannes.

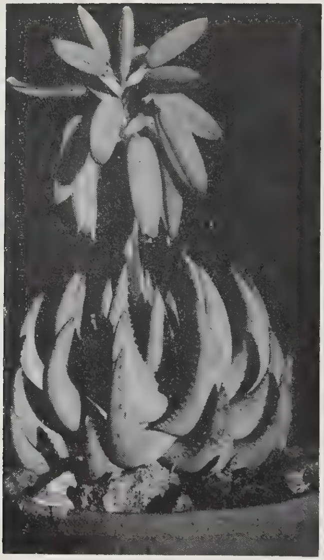

Fig. 1.

Aloe krapohliana var *dumoulinii*. Flowering, single-headed specimen showing the distinctive leaf form; Photo: Botanical Research Institute.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is much indebted to the Department of Nature Conservation of the Cape Provincial Administration for their help and co-operation over many years.

The Chief, Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria for the use of the facilities of the National Herbarium.

Mr. and Mrs. Jan Dumoulin for guiding him to the habitat of the variety here described.